

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-28 (cancelled).

29. (currently amended) A doctor blade mounting system for applying liquids to a rotatable cylinder in printing equipment comprising an elongated frame mounted adjacent to said rotatable cylinder, said elongated frame including a support and a clamping portion mounted with respect to said support, said clamping portion including an elongated slit having a first side and a second side defining an opening, a doctor blade disposed within said elongated slit parallel to said rotatable cylinder for operative wiping engagement with said rotatable cylinder, said doctor blade including a first side and a second side corresponding to said first and second sides of said elongated slit, respectively, and clamping means for fixing said doctor blade within said elongated slit, said second side of said elongated slit presenting a substantially planar surface for said second side of said doctor blade, whereby said doctor blade can be held along said substantially planar surface of said second side of said elongated slit with a substantially even clamping force, and said first side of said elongated slit presenting a contoured surface including an outer end having a first predetermined dimension corresponding to the entrance into said elongated slit and an inner portion having a second predetermined dimension, said second predetermined dimension being greater than said first predetermined dimension, said clamping means comprising an elastomeric material disposed within said elongated slit and accessible for removal from said opening in said slit with said doctor blade disposed therein whereby said elastomeric material can fit and lock within the cross-sectional profile of said elongated slit and said elastomeric material is resiliently disposed with respect to said first side of said doctor blade to provide a damping action for said doctor blade, and is removable from said opening to

assist in subsequent removal of said doctor blade from said elongated slit.

30. (previously presented) The doctor blade mounting system of claim 29 wherein said clamping means is tightly received within said elongated slit.

31. (previously presented) The doctor blade mounting system of claim 29 wherein said clamping means fixes said doctor blade by means of friction.

32. (previously presented) The doctor blade mounting system of claim 29 wherein said clamping means supports at least said first side of said doctor blade disposed within said elongated slit.

33. (previously presented) The doctor blade mounting system of claim 29 wherein said clamping means is resiliently disposed within said elongated slit.

34. (cancelled).

35. (previously presented) The doctor blade mounting system of claim 29 wherein said clamping means comprises at least one elastomeric member.

36. (currently amended) The doctor blade mounting system of claim 35 wherein at least a portion of said elastomeric member is in the shape of a wedge strip comprising a shape intended to ~~fit and lock within a cross-sectional profile of~~ cooperate with said contoured surface of said first side said elongated slit.

37. (previously presented) The doctor blade mounting system of claim 35 wherein at least a portion of said clamping means supports an edge of said doctor blade disposed within said elongated slit.

38. (previously presented) The doctor blade mounting system of claim 35 wherein said elastomeric member has a hardness of about 70 degrees Shore.

39. (previously presented) The doctor blade mounting system of claim 29 wherein said support and said clamping portion comprise separate parts, and said support includes at least one end portion, and wherein said clamping means resiliently clamps said clamping portion to said end portion of said support.

40. (currently amended) A doctor blade mounting system comprising a doctor blade clamping portion comprising a solid material and including a slit including a first side and a second side defining an opening for receiving a doctor blade, said doctor blade including a first side and a second side corresponding to said first and second sides of said slit, respectively, and clamping means for clamping said doctor blade within said slit, said second side of said slit presenting a substantially planar surface for said second side of said doctor blade, whereby said doctor blade can be held along said substantially planar surface of said second side of said slit with a substantially even clamping force, and said first side of said slit presenting a contoured surface including an outer end having a first predetermined dimension corresponding to the entrance into said slit and an inner portion having a second predetermined dimension, said second predetermined dimension being greater than said first predetermined dimension, said clamping means comprising an elastomeric material disposed within said elongated slit and accessible for removal from said opening in said slit with said doctor blade therein whereby said elastomeric material can fit and lock within the cross-sectional profile of said slit and said elastomeric material is resiliently arranged to provide a damping motion for said first side of said doctor blade, and is removable from said opening to assist in subsequent removal of said doctor blade from said elongated slit.

41. (previously presented) The doctor blade mounting system of claim 40 wherein said clamping means is tightly received within said slit.

42. (previously presented) The doctor blade mounting system of claim 40 wherein said clamping means fixes said doctor blade by means of friction.

43. (previously presented) The doctor blade mounting system of claim 40 wherein said clamping means supports at least said first side of said doctor blade disposed within said slit.

44. (previously presented) The doctor blade mounting system of claim 40 wherein said clamping means is resiliently disposed within said slit.

45. (previously presented) The doctor blade mounting system of claim 40 wherein said clamping means is removably disposed within said slit.

46. (previously presented) The doctor blade mounting system of claim 40 wherein said clamping means comprises at least one elastomeric member.

47. (currently amended) The doctor blade mounting system of claim 46 wherein at least a portion of said elastomeric member is in the shape of a wedge strip comprising a shape intended to ~~fit and lock within a cross-sectional profile~~ cooperate with said contoured surfaced of said first side of said slit.

48. (previously presented) The doctor blade mounting system of claim 46 wherein at least a portion of said clamping means supports an edge of said doctor blade disposed within said slit.

49. (previously presented) The doctor blade mounting system of claim 46 wherein said elastomeric member has a hardness of about 70 degrees Shore.

50. (currently amended) A chambered doctor blade mounting system for applying liquids to a rotatable cylinder in printing

equipment comprising an elongated frame mounted adjacent to said rotatable cylinder, said elongated frame comprising a support and a pair of clamping portions, a pair of elongated doctor blades mounted on said pair of clamping portions whereby said pair of elongated doctor blades are disposed parallel to said rotatable cylinder for operative wiping engagement with said rotatable cylinder, each of said pair of clamping portions including an elongated slit including a first side and a second side defining an opening for receiving each of said pair of elongated doctor blades, each of said pair of elongated doctor blades including a first side and a second side corresponding to said first and second sides of said elongated slit, respectively, said pair of clamping portions and said support comprising separate parts, said support including a pair of end portions, said second sides of said elongated slits presenting substantially planar surfaces for said second sides of said pair of elongated doctor blades, whereby said doctor blades can be held along said substantially planar surfaces of said second sides of said elongated slits with a substantially even clamping force, and said first side of said elongated slit presenting a contoured surface including an outer end having a first predetermined dimension corresponding to the entrance to said elongated slit and an inner portion having a second predetermined dimension, said second predetermined dimension being greater than said first predetermined dimension, and clamping means comprising an elastomeric material disposed within said elongated slit and accessible for removal from said opening in said elongated slits with said doctor blade therein whereby said elastomeric material is resiliently clamping said clamping portion to said pair of end portions of said support, and is removable from said opening to assist in subsequent removal of said doctor blades from said elongated slits.

51. (currently amended) A method for removably clamping a doctor blade in a clamping member comprising an elongated clamping member comprising solid material, said elongated clamping member including a first side and a second side defining a slit including an opening for introduction of said doctor blade including a first side and a second side corresponding to said first and second sides of said slit, respectively, said method comprising inserting a portion of said doctor blade into said slit through said opening with said second side of said slit presenting a substantially planar surface for said second side of said doctor blade, whereby said doctor blade can be held along said substantially planar surface of said second side of said slit with a substantially even clamping force, and said first side of said elongated slit presenting a contoured surface including an outer end having a first predetermined dimension corresponding to said opening into said slit and an inner portion having a second predetermined dimension, said second predetermined dimension being greater than said first predetermined dimension, and thereafter inserting resilient clamping means into said slit through said opening for resiliently supporting said first side of said doctor blade within said slit, said resilient clamping means including a surface cooperating with said contoured surface so as to fit and lock said resilient clamping means within said elongated slit.

52. (previously presented) The method of claim 51 including lubricating said clamping means prior to inserting said clamping means into said slit.

53. (previously presented) The method of claim 52 wherein said clamping means comprises an elastomeric member, and including manually inserting said clamping means into said slit.

54. (previously presented) The method of claim 51 including attaching said clamping means to a substantially U-shaped support.

55. (previously presented) A method for removably attaching a doctor blade clamping portion to a support having at least one end portion, said doctor blade clamping portion including a first slit including a first opening and a second slit including a second opening, said first slit having a first side and a second side and intended to accommodate said doctor blade, and said second slit having a first side and a second side, said second side of said first slit presenting a substantially planar surface for one side of said doctor blade, whereby said doctor blade can be held along said substantially planar surface of said second side of said first slit, said method comprising introducing said at least one end portion of said support into said second opening of said second slit and inserting resilient clamping means into said second opening of said second slit for resiliently supporting said at least one end portion of said support within said clamping portion.

56. (previously presented) The method of claim 55 wherein said second side of said second slit presents a substantially planar surface for one side of said support, whereby said support can be held along said substantially planar surface of said second side of said second slit.

57. (previously presented) The doctor blade mounting system of claim 29, wherein said elastomeric material comprises a first elastomeric material, and including a second elastomeric material disposed within said elongated slit on said second side of said doctor blade thereby providing said substantially planar surface.

58. (previously presented) The doctor blade mounting system of claim 29, wherein said doctor blade has a thickness of

between about .06 and 2 mm, and wherein said elastomeric material comprises a material softer than said doctor blade.

59. (previously presented) The doctor blade mounting system of claim 29, wherein only up to about 30% of the entire length of said doctor blade is disposed within said elongated slit.